

yet in full flow; Guiscard and his comrades had founded a great land power in Southern Italy; the Normans were next to take to the sea. The siege of Bari had filled them with confidence in the ships which, drawn from the subject towns, had forced the Greek capital to surrender¹; from that time, at Palermo and elsewhere, their marine was responsible for half of their triumphs, "The geographical configuration of Italy evidently demands a fleet,"⁸ The Normans superior to the Lombards whom they supplanted by the possession of a marine; that fact again bound them to an aggressive foreign policy, and since Byzantium was at once the enemy and the wealthiest, decaying, and despised, they entered upon a series of expeditions the Empire which did not for a hundred years,

Guiscard was at no loss for a pretext

the Byzantines, Michael VII. had entered into communications with the Duke, whose assistance he was ready to invoke to prop up the falling house of Duetts. The end of a marriage proposal was that, in 1074, Guiscard's daughter was escorted to Constantinople, where she received the name Helena, and

for the bride of MicheaTs young son,
But in 1078 Michael was driven off
the

¹ "Gens Norm&nnnrurn rwv«!w
Haetenus ut victrix **nstluit**,"

Ouill, Ap,» bk, til,
* Delarc, *La Normandsm Itolit*, p. 455,